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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Regional Conference on the Implementation of
National, Regional and World Plans of Action
for the Integration of Women in Development

Nouakchott, Mauritania
27 September - 2 October 1977

INFORMATION and PROGRAMME

M77-939

Regional Conference on the Implementation of National, Regional, and World Plans of Action for the Integration of Women in Development

Nouakchott (Mauritania), 27 September - 2 October 1977

I. ORGANIZATION AND WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

A. Venue

1. The venue of the Conference will be the Hotel El AHMEDI, ten kilometres from Nouakchott.

B. Steering Committee

2. A Steering Committee will need to be established. It shall comprise the Conference (elected) Chairman, the 2 Vice-Chairmen, and the Rapporteur. The Executive Secretary of ECA or the Director of the Conference and members of the ECA secretariat will be in attendance. The Steering Committee will interpret the rules of procedure of the Conference, will have powers of co-option and will be responsible for maintaining the day-to-day deliberations of the Conference.

C. Rules of Procedure

3. The rules of procedure of the ECA Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure (E/CN.14/III/Rev.5/Corr. I) shall apply mutatis mutandis.

D. Working Languages

4. The working languages of the Conference will be English and French. Simultaneous interpretation facilities will be provided between the two working languages.

E. Conference Secretariat

5. A list of members will be distributed at the Conference.

F. Organization and Method of Work

6. It is proposed that the working sessions of the Conference be held from:

Morning - 8.00 a.m. to 9.45 a.m.
(Break for coffee - 15 minutes)

- 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon (resumed session)

Afternoon - 3.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.
(Break for coffee - 15 minutes)

- 4.45 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. (resumed session)

7. Special programmes for the Inaugural and Closing sessions will be prepared and distributed. The Programme for the Inaugural Session will include:

- Opening of the Regional Conference by His Excellency the President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.
- Background and objective of the Conference: Statement by the Executive Secretary of ECA.
- Statement by the UN Assistant Secretary-General for Social and Humanitarian Affairs.
- Response from the floor: 2 Government Delegates.

8. In addition to the Inaugural and Closing sessions, the Conference will meet in plenary sessions, except on two sessional occasions at which Committees of the Whole, will meet to consider in greater depth the topic of Agenda Item 3: The Establishment of Regional Machinery to Enhance the Role of Women in the Economic and Social Development of Africa and to Promote and Guide ECA's Training and Research Centre for Women. The Committee of the Whole will report their conclusions and recommendations to the Conference, for consideration and adoption.

9. The Conference will convene for morning and afternoon sessions from Tuesday, 27 September through Friday, 31 September 1977. It will then adjourn for Saturday, 1 October 1977 to allow drafting groups to assist the Rapporteur in the preparation of a draft report for consideration in plenary on Sunday 2 October. Participants field visits, etc. will be arranged for Saturday, 1 October 1977.

G. Country/Agency Statements

10. The representative of each country or agency is invited to prepare a brief background paper or statement on the situation and

views of his or her country/agency in relation to the topics of the agenda. Observers are also invited to prepare brief information notes on their activities relevant to the implementation of the Plans of Action and to other items of the agenda. Participants and Observers are asked to bring with them one hundred copies of their papers in either English or French (or in both languages) for distribution to participants. No country or agency's background papers or statements will be translated or duplicated at the Conference.

H. Travel Arrangements

(i) Tickets

11. ECA will provide round-trip tickets (tourist class, by the most direct and quickest route) through UNDP offices in member countries, for one nominee from each country only. The name of the nominee should be communicated to ECA well in advance, as tickets can only be issued for the actual named persons who will travel. Governments and agencies will be responsible for the purchase of tickets for other nominees or observers.

(ii) Arrival

12. The flights from Dakar to Nouakchott which will enable Conference participants to arrive in time are:

- Saturday 24 September 1977 (Air Mauritanie) Flight MR 164
  Departure from Dakar 17.00 hrs.
  Arrival at Nouakchott - 18.30 hrs.

- Monday 26 September 1977 (Air Afrique) Flight RK 314
  Departure from Dakar - 09.00 hrs.
  Arrival at Nouakchott - 09.50 hrs.

NOTE: No planes are available on Friday or Sunday. Participants should arrange their flights from their home countries to connect with the Saturday or Monday flights from Dakar to Nouakchott and should notify both ECA (Addis Ababa) and UNDP (Dakar) of their flight number and expected time of arrival.

(iii) Departure

13. Flights from Nouakchott through Dakar, following the closure of the Conference are:

- Monday 3 October (Air Afrique) Flight RK 315
  Departure from Nouakchott - 11.00 hrs.
  Arrival at Dakar - 11.50 hrs.

- Tuesday 4 October (Air Mauritanie) Flight MR 061
  Departure from Nouakchott - 09.00 hrs.
  Arrival at Dakar - 10.15 hrs.

No Sunday flights are available.

14. Participants should check both the arrival and departure flights when booking as schedules may change.

15. A representative of Air Afrique will be present at the Hotel El AHMEDI to assist participants with their return bookings.

(iv) Visas

16. Arrangements will be made by the UNDP office in Nouakchott for participants who cannot obtain visas for Mauritania in their home countries to be given these on arrival in Nouakchott.

(v) Insurance for life, health, accident or property

17. No responsibility will be taken for this by either ECA or the Government of Mauritania or for any loss or damage sustained during travel to and from the Conference or while in Mauritania.

(vi) Inoculations and health precautions

18. All participants should bring with them International Certificates of Vaccination with valid certificates of inoculation/vaccination for small-pox, yellow fever and cholera.

19. Medical facilities will be arranged by the Government of Mauritania.

I. Accommodation

20. Accommodation will be reserved for all participants and observers either at the EL AHMEDI Hotel or at other suitable hotels. Buses will be provided for transport to and from other hotels to the Conference venue.

J. Per Diem

21. A per diem allowance will be paid on arrival to the one participant nominated by each member State for financing by ECA. This per diem allowance will be paid in Mauritania currency.

K. Currency and Customs Regulations

22. There is no restriction on bringing foreign currencies into Mauritania or in taking them out again provided a declaration of currency imported is made on arrival. Banking facilities ~~will be~~ available at the Hotel El AHMEDI.

23. Each adult is permitted to import, duty free, up to a maximum of 200 cigarettes, 1 bottle of spirits, 2 bottles of wine and 50 grammes of perfume. Men only may substitute 25 cigars or 400 grammes of tobacco for 200 cigarettes.

L. Government Liaison Officer

24. The Government of Mauritania has kindly designated MR. ATHIE OMAR, Ministry of Social Affairs as liaison officer for the Conference.

M. Climate

25. The climate of Mauritania is expected to be hot and rather humid during the period of the Conference. Heavy storms may occur. The Conference venue (Hotel El AHMEDI) is air-conditioned, however. Appropriate clothing will be needed.

N. Addresses:

- UNDP DAKAR, Senegal :
  Cable address - UNDEVPRO, Dakar, Senegal
  Postal address - P.O. Box 154, Dakar, Senegal

- UNDP NOUAKCHOTT, Mauritania :
  Cable address - UNDEVPRO, Nouakchott, Mauritania
  Postal address - P.O. Box 620, Nouakchott, Mauritania

- UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA (ECA) :
  Cable address - ECA, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
  Postal address - ECA, SDD/ATRCW, P.O. Box 3001, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

- CONFERENCE CABLE ADDRESS :
  Telex - 503, AHMEDI, Nouakchott
  Telephone - 514-43, Nouakchott

II. PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Suggested Working Hours

Morning Session - 8.00 a.m. to 12 noon

Break for lunch -- 12 noon to 3.00 p.m.

Afternoon Session - 3.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.

MONDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 1977 (PRE-CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS)

- Registration of participants.
- Informal meetings with participants' briefing on Conference procedures and distribution of Background Documents (B.D. Series).

INAUGURAL SESSION

(Provisional)

(Tuesday, 27 September 1977)

Venue : Conference Plenary Hall, Hotel El AHMEDI.

9.00 - 9.25 a.m. : Participants, Observers and invited guests take their seats.

9.25 a.m. : Arrival of His Excellency the President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

9.30 a.m. : (1) H.E. The President delivers Opening Address.

(2) Statement by Prof. Adebayo Adedeji, Executive Secretary of UNECA.

(3) Statement by Mrs. Helvi Sipilä, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs.

(4) Vote of thanks from participants (2)

Closing remarks by Chairman

REFRESHMENTS

BUSINESS SESSIONS

TUESDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER 1977

Morning - 11.30 a.m. : Election of Officers; Adoption of Agenda; and Adoption of Organizational Arrangements for the Conference. (E/CN.14/ATRCW/77/INF. 2)

LUNCH BREAK

Afternoon - Agenda Item 1

- Review of progress on the implementation of Plans of Action for the integration of women in development at the national and regional levels.

  (To be introduced by the Chief, ECA African Training and Research Centre for Women (ATRCW))

- Discussion.

Evening - RECEPTION (Time and place will be announced in due course)

WEDNESDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 1977

Morning - Discussion of Agenda Item 1 (Continued)

LUNCH BREAK

Afternoon - Agenda Item 2

- Future priorities and action for increasing women's participation in Africa's development, strategies to achieve the New International Economic Order and ECA's Revised Framework of Principles for the Implementation of the New International Economic Order in Africa 1976 - 1981 - 1986.

  (To be introduced by Special Consultant, Dr. E. Boserup)

- Discussion.

THURSDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 1977

Morning - Discussion of Agenda Item 2 (Continued).

LUNCH BREAK

Afternoon - Agenda Item 3

- Establishment of regional machinery to enhance the role of women in the economic and social development of Africa and to promote and guide ECA's African Training and Research Centre for Women.

  (To be introduced by Conference Director)

- Discussion (Plenary).

- Meetings of Committees of the Whole to study the topic of Agenda Item 3 and to draw up recommendations.

FRIDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 1977

Morning - Presentation of reports of Committees of the Whole to the Conference, and plenary discussion of reports.

LUNCH BREAK

Afternoon - Agenda Item 4

- National and Regional action related to the International Year of the Child.

(To be introduced by UNICEF)

- Discussion.

SATURDAY, 1 OCTOBER 1977

Field visits and drafting of final report.

SUNDAY, 2 OCTOBER 1977

Morning - Presentation and adoption of Draft Final Report.

Afternoon - CLOSING SESSION

MONDAY, 2 OCTOBER 1977/TUESDAY, 3 OCTOBER 1977

Departure of participants according to flight connections (see I (H) above).

III. SPECIAL MEETINGS

(a) A meeting of representatives of the UN agencies at the Conference will be held in the morning of Monday, 3 October 1977. (Time and place will be announced in due course)

(b) A meeting of representatives of ATRCW donor agencies participating in the Conference will be held in the afternoon of Monday, 3 October 1977.

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

1. The provisional agenda for the Conference is as follows :

Agenda Item 1. Review of progress in the implementation of Plans of Action for the integration of women in development at the national and regional levels. (To be presented by ECA)

This will involve both general considerations and a review of the implementation of the World and Regional Plans of Action adopted in Mexico 1/ and related resolutions, in particular General Assembly Resolution 3520 (XXX) which called for examination of :

> "The establishment of short-term, medium-term and long-term targets ... and priorities ... taking into account ... the minimum objectives recommended for achievement by 1980,
>
> "The adoption of national strategies, plans and programmes for the implementation of the recommendations within the framework of overall development plans, policies and programmes".

2. In addition, the Conference will consider structures and activities of existing national machinery for increasing the access of women to the means and rewards of development in Africa. Participants from countries where such national machinery exists or is being established will be invited to comment on their machinery - its advantages and disadvantages, and their experience so far.

- Working documents :

W.D.1. Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development in Africa : drawn up by representatives of African Governments at the Regional Seminar on the Integration of Women in Development, with Special Reference to Population Factors, held in Addis Ababa in June 1974, and subsequently adopted by the World Conference in Mexico City and endorsed by the General Assembly at its 30th session in 1975.

W.D.2. National Machinery for the Integration of Women in Development in African Countries : a compilation of information concerning or contributed by member States of ECA (a progress report).

1/ Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year : United Nations publication (Sales No. E.76.IV.1, Chapter II, Section A, paragraph 46).

- Background documents :

B.D.1. National Commissions on Women and Development and Women's Bureaux : A pamphlet emphasizing the need to establish governmental machinery to ensure the full participation of women in all sectors of economic and social development, and suggesting the possible location, functions, composition, of such machinery at the national level.

B.D.2. Declaration of Mexico : Plans of Action : the official United Nations document containing the World Plan of Action and the regional plans for Africa and for Asia and the Pacific, as well as the Declaration of Mexico, as endorsed by the General Assembly.

B.D.3. ECA Conference of Ministers resolution 269 (XII), adopted in Nairobi in February 1975.

B.D.4. General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV), 3519 (XXX), 3520 (XXX), 3521 (XXX), 3522 (XXX), 3523 (XXX), 3524 (XXX), 3505 (XXX), 31/175, 31/133, 31/134, 31/136, 31/137, relating to the Decade for Women and the Programme for the Decade.

B.D.5. African Women Vol. 3, No. 1 (Women's Decade edition). African Women is a newsletter published three times a year to provide a forum for exchanges of views and ideas among African women, in addition to providing information on national, regional and local activities to promote the social economic cultural, and political advancement of women in the region.

Agenda Item 2. Future priorities and action for increasing women's participation in Africa's development, and strategies to achieve the New International Economic Order and ECA's Revised Framework of Principles for the Implementation of the New International Economic Order in Africa, 1976 - 1981 - 1986. (To be presented by ECA)

3. In the light of the review of progress achieved and difficulties identified under Agenda Item 1, and the trends emerging in regard to women's integration in development, the Conference will examine the implications for the future. Relations between the Plans of Action and the search for a new international economic order will be considered

together with the role women may play in this process, against the background of Africa's strategies for the NIEO. The participants may propose appropriate action which could be taken by Governments, ECA, OAU, and women's and other organizations operating in the region. In order to ensure the fullest possible participation of women in the New International Economic Order.

- Working documents :

W.D.2. National Machinery for the Integration of Women In Development in African Countries (prospective view).

W.D.3. The New International Economic Order : What Roles for Women ? A brief summary of the major global and African issues of the NIEO, and the actual and potential roles of women of Africa in its implementation.

- Background documents :

B.D.6. Revised framework of principles for the implementation of the new international economic order in Africa, 1976 - 1981 - 1986 (E/CN.14/ECO/90 Rev.3) : a document spelling out the strategy for ensuring economic development in the member States of ECA.

B.D.7. African Women's Development Task Force : an information pamphlet describing the volunteer Task Force, through which African women can help each other to achieve development. The Task Force is being organized by the ECA Training and Research Centre for Women.

B.D.8. Women of Africa - Today and Tomorrow : a booklet illustrating the role of women in both traditional and modern societies in Africa, and women's contributions to development. It also emphasizes the crucial needs of rural women and the obstacles to their advancement, suggesting methods for the solution of development problems pertaining to women;and, specifically, measures for raising family levels of living.

Agenda Item 3. Establishment of regional machinery to enhance the role of women in the economic and social development of Africa, and to promote and guide ECA's Training and Research Centre for Women. (To be presented by ECA)

4. The establishment of regional machinery to enhance the role of women has been recommended by various United Nations bodies and organizations, and was agreed upon by the ECA Conference of Ministers in 1975. Under this item a representative of the secretariat will

explain the origins, establishment and planned work programme of the Training and Research Centre for Women, the contribution it can make to the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action and the sources of the Centre's support. A discussion will follow on the effectiveness of these programmes in terms of the real needs of women in Africa. The implications of the General Assembly's resolution calling for the establishment at Headquarters, New York, of a secretariat, within the regular budget of the United Nations, to deal with women and development will be examined, as will the vital roles of ECA in representing this secretariat in Africa and in dealing directly with member States of the Region.

5. The desirability of establishing, at regional level, a machinery to guide and assist ECA and its member States in activities directed towards the enhancement of women's roles in development and in the co-ordination of national and regional programmes will be discussed. In conclusion the Conference may propose the structure, composition, functions, rules of procedure and resources of such machinery.

6. The participants will consider possibilities for co-operation between the Centre, OAU, the Pan-African Women's Organization and other organizations in the region, in line with resolution I of the World Conference of the International Women's Year and the World Plan of Action. The latter provides that :

> 'The regional economic comissions should provide assistance to governmental and non-governmental organizations to identify needed action, development policies, strategies and programmes for strengthening women's role in national development, and formulate requests for technical and financial assistance for such programmes.
>
> "The regional commissions should also promote technical co-operation between the countries of the region, utilizing the existing talent available". 1/

- Working document :

W.D.4. Possible Regional Machinery to Promote Co-operation and Co-ordination in Africa - suggestions for various types of framework for co-operation and co-ordination among governments, voluntary agencies, regional organizations, and the ECA/TRCW.

1/ Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year : United Nations publication (Sales No. E.76.IV.1, Chapter II, Section A, paragraph 46).

- Background documents :

B.D.9. A Path to Progress for African Women : a pamphlet which summarizes the objectives and work of the ECA Training and Research Centre for Women.

B.D.10. The Origin and Growth of the ECA/TRCW : a supplementary document containing a brief history of the Centre, and an assessment of its work, against the background of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the ECA Conference of Ministers.

Agenda Item 4. National and Regional action related to the International Year of the Child. (To be presented by UNICEF)

7. The contribution which national and regional agencies concerned with women and development can make to promoting the well-being of children in Africa during the International Year of the Child will be discussed. Proposals for action may be made by the Conference participants.

- Working document :

W.D.5. The International Year of the Child : UNICEF Strategies and Activities in Africa, including the role expected of ATRCW.

- Background documents :

B.D.11. General Assembly Resolution 31/169 designating 1979 the International Year of the Child.

B.D.12. Declaration of Mexico : Plans of Action.